

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 TAR-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 /096 W
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R 241110Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9813

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3269

1. EMBOFFS APRIL 24 CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR (AFGHANISTAN) GHORI TO DISCUSS STATUS OF PAK-AFGHAN CIVIL AIR RELATIONS (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL). IN COURSE OF MEETING, TYY ALSO TOUCHED ON SEVERAL OTHER ASPECTS OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS; INCLUDING PROPAGANDA; CLOSING PAK BORDER TO NOMADS, AND TWO RECENT PAK PRESS ACCOUNTS WHICH HAD TROUBLED US.

2. FIRST ACCOUNT, APPEARING IN JANG, APRIL 21, CITED "RELIABLE SOURCES" AS REVEALING THAT GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WAS REVIEWING ITS NON-TARIFF POLICY TOWARDS TRANSITING AFGHAN GOODS. CHORI DISMISSED THIS AS TOTALLY WITHOUT SUBSTANCE AND AN EXAMPLE OF UNFORTUNATE SENSATIONALIST JOURNALISM. SECOND ACCOUNT, WHICH
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APPEARED IN URDU ZAMANA AND WAS REPEATED IN MORNING NEWS

OF APRIL 21, REPORTED THAT INDIAN 8TH SIKH REGIMENT WAS SERVING IN KABUL AS A GUARD UNIT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THIS , TOO, GHORI DISMISSED AS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE, AND COMMENTED THAT SENSATIONALISM OF THAT SORT ONLY DISCREDITED PAK PRESS IN OUTSIDE WORLD.

3. REGARDING PROPAGANDA, GHORI ASKED OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT, THEN AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A RECENT DIMINUTION IN AD HOMINEM ATTACKS EMANATING FROM KABUL ON PAK LEADERS. IN REPLY TO EMBOFF'S QUERY, GHORI SAID THAT DIMINUTION DID NOT COME IN RESPONSE TO GMT INITIATIVES BUT WAS MORE RELATED TO CERTAIN ATTEMPTS BY OUTSIDERS (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SENATOR PERCY'S INITIATIVES).

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, GHORI NOTED THAT THE AFGHANS HAVE BECOME MORE SOPHISTICATED WITH THEIR PROPAGANDA SO THAT ITS BITE IS STILL VERY MUCH FELT HERE. IN PARTICULAR, HE POINTED TO SDIO KABUL'S HARPING FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS ON BASIC COMMODITY PRICE INCREASES RECENTLY ESTABLISHED BY JOP. HOWEVER, DIRECTOR COMMENTED THAT GOP HOPES THAT, FOLLOWING PRESIDENT DAUD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO TEHRAN, HOSTILE TONE OF AFGHAN PROPAGANDA MAY DIMINISH AS SUBJECT WILL "MOST CERTAINLY" BE AN ITEM IN DAUD'S TALKS WITH THE SHAH.

5. REGARDING BORDER CROSSING, 96 NOMADS SEEKING BETTER PASTURES (REFTEL), GHORI DENIED HAVING PREVIOUSLY USED TERM "DISCOURAGE" IN DESCRIBING INITIATIVES GOP WOULD TAKE TOWARD THOSE WHO WINTERED IN PAKISTAN RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN THIS SUMMER (REFTEL). INSTEAD, HE ASSERTED,

GOP WOULD "NOT FORCE" NOMADS TO RETURN AND MANY THOUSANDS HAVE INDEED NOT DONE SO. HE REITERATED THE

GOP WILL NOT ALLOW NOMADS TO RETURN HERE NEXT FALL AND WILL TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO SEE THAT THEY DO NOT. HE CITED THREE REASONS FOR GOP'S EXCLUSION OF THEM: FIRST, " QUITE FRANKLY" GOP'S NOT WANTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EASE GOA'S ECONOMIC BURDEN; SECOND, GOP'S NOT WANTING TO ASSUME ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PEOPLE; AND THIRD, SECURITY ASPECTS, I.E. DIFFICULTY IN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL NOMAD AND AFGHAN "TERRORIST".
BYROADE

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